(c) The construction of these units is expected to be completed by 2007.

Indians employed in UAE

280. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indians employed in UAE till date, Sates–wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of Keralities are among the Indians employed and seeking employment in UAE:

(c) if so, whether the hardships faced by the Keralites for getting visas and other related documents has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) whether Government received any prposal for setting up of a Consulate of UAE at Cochin to overcome the problem;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the UAE authorities; and

(f) if so, details along with the results therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Approximately one million (including the dependents of those employed) from various States of India live in UAE. State-wise details are not available.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) UAE Government has laid down rules and procedures for approving visa request for all visa seekers including Indian nationals. Any difficulties faced by Indians in processing visas and attestation of documents is brought to the notice of UAE authorities.

(d) No proposal has been received from the UAE Government to set up a Consulate in Cochin.

(e) and (f) It is a sovereign decision of the Government of UAE to determine whether they wish to open a consulate in Cochin and Government of India has no role in the matter.